

achieved greater and wider social involvement, and whose activities and commitment to the principles of the Movement represent a major contribution to justice and peace.

This *History of the Spanish Red Cross* is also a discovery—or a rediscovery—of Spanish contemporary history set against a background of humanitarian ideals.

Jacques Meurant

LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS EN EL SISTEMA INTERAMERICANO

Recopilación de instrumentos básicos

In recent years the subject of human rights protection has grown steadily in dimension and importance in Latin America.

Effectively ensuring respect for human rights demands a thorough knowledge of such rights and how they are applied.

The fact that, until recently, no Spanish text existed which fully and systematically set out existing human rights instruments has led the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights to publish the above-mentioned work*.

It is a very comprehensive compilation of the many legal instruments within the inter-American human rights system, the best known of which are undoubtedly the 1948 Organization of American States (OAS) Charter and the 1969 American Convention on Human Rights. This collection is intended both for academic circles and for the many human rights defence groups in Latin America.

The book is divided into four parts, each containing various instruments according to their legal standing; American Conventions (first part); Declarations (second part); Statutes and Regulations (third Part); OAS Resolutions on Human Rights (fourth part). The resolutions are listed according to the bodies which adopted them and subdivided according to the subject matter they deal with.

The table of contents is supplemented by an index of instruments in chronological order (up to the end of 1986) which makes for ease of reference.

In this introduction, Professor Héctor Gross Espiell briefly describes the inter-American human rights system and comments on how it works and on its various instruments. He especially refers to the differences between that system and those in other regions, in particular the European system. Although partly structural in nature, they also stem from the difference in economic, social and political backgrounds.

* *Los derechos humanos en el sistema interamericano, Recopilación de instrumentos básicos*, (Human rights in the inter-American system, Compilation of basic instruments), Daniel Zovatto G., compiler, Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, Costa Rica, 1987, pp. 358.

The inter-American system has a twofold character: one based on the OAS Charter, and therefore applicable to all OAS Member States, and one based on the American Convention on Human Rights which applies solely to States party to that Convention.

Without question, Daniel Zovatto's remarkable compilation is a very valuable and useful work of reference for all people interested in human rights study and academic research; it is equally valuable for those striving to ensure that fundamental human rights are more effectively respected in Latin America.

Cristina Pellandini

CORRECTION

IRRC No. 768, November-December 1987

Sixth Session of the General Assembly of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, p. 584, paragraph 2.

This paragraph states: "The Assembly was honoured by the presence at its opening ceremony of Mr. José Sarney, the Brazilian President..." This information provided to the IRRC was incorrect and in fact Mr. Sarney was unable to attend. At the end of the session, however, the delegates at the General Assembly heard a message from the Brazilian President on the humanitarian role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.
